

COPY/

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1944.

FYFIELD,  
Ongar.

The Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen of the Ongar Rural District Council.

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health  
of the District for 1944.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A.S. DAVID.

M.O.H.



REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR 1944.

A P P E N D I X.

1944.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres. 47,712.  
Population (estimated) 13,000

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERS.

Average hight above Sea Level 200 ft.  
Preponderating character of soil, London Clay.  
Rivers, Roding and tributaries.  
Number of inhabited houses 1944 - 4233.  
The rateable value 1944 - £58,326.  
Sum represented by a penny rate - £236.  
Chief occupation of inhabitants, Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M	F	
Live Births ( Legitimate	139	120	} 274.
( Illegitimate	6	9	
Stillbirths . . . . .			7.
Rate per 1000 births . . . . .			24.9
Birth rate per 100 population . . . . .			20.
Deaths (all ages) . . . . .			163.
Death rate per 1000, all ages . . . . .			12.5.
Deaths from Childbirth 0 (Sepsis 0			
(Other causes 0			
Per 1000 births . . . . .			0
Deaths of infants under 1 year . . . . .			12
Rate per 1000 births 55 ( Legitimate 52			
( Illegitimate 83			
Deaths from measles . . . . .			0.
" " whooping cough . . . . .			0.
" " Epidemic Diarrhoea . . . . .			1.
" " Cancer . . . . .			26.

No cause of sickness has been specially noteworthy during the year.

Poor law Relief is given to the amount of £1500. yearly.

HOSPITALS.

The Ongar War Memorial Hospital is in active operation and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

Tuberculosis. Many cases are sent to Sanatoriums provided by the County Council.

Maternity } No provision, Ongar Hospital 6 beds.  
Children }

Fever cases. Patients are sent under agreement to the Chelmsford Isolation Hospital.

Small Pox. Patients go to Orsett Hospital.



The Council possesses a Motor Ambulance, which is freely used.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers.

None.

#### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly in the Parish Room, Abridge, and another at Chipping Ongar was opened in April, 1927. Clinics are held in connection with these.

Day Nurseries. None.

School Clinics. Under arrangement.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. None. Patients attend at Epping.

Veneral Disease. Patients go to the Chelmsford and London Hospitals.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. A.S. DAVID, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Part time. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

Sanitary Inspector. P.R.B. PEARCE, C.R.S.I. Wholetime. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

A Health Visitor is maintained by the Essex County Council.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General. A nurse is maintained in Ongar by voluntary subscriptions. The six District Nurses do a good deal of nursing apart from maternity work. Grants are made by the County for the Nursing Association.

Measles. In the case of an epidemic the Medical Officer of Health has power to employ a temporary nurse for the care of patients in their homes. Occasional severely complicated cases go to the Isolation Hospital.

Chemical Work. No special arrangement. The Medical Officer of Health examines samples of water for fitness. Bacteriological examinations are done by the Counties Public Health Laboratory.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### WATER SUPPLY.

Parishes supplied entirely or mostly by Company's mains are:-

Bobbingworth  
Chipping Ongar  
Pyfield.  
Greensted.  
High Ongar.  
Kelvedon Hatch.  
Lambourne.  
Moreton.  
Stondon Massey.  
Stanford Rivers.  
Shelley.  
Stapleford Abbotts.  
Theydon Mount.  
Willingale.

The Council have their own scheme for the supply of water to the Parishes of Blackmore and Doddington and Willingale.





The supply is constant and satisfactory. The water is derived from deep wells in the chalk at Sawbridgeworth and on analysis has been found pure.

22 houses were connected to mains in 1944.

The Parishes of :-

Abbess Roding  
Berners Roding  
Norton Mandeville  
High Laver (Parts)  
Navestock (Parts)  
Little Laver  
Stapleford Tawney  
Shellow Bowells.

are mostly dependant of shallow wells for supply. Isolated cottages often have no well and either use surface water near to hand or obtain water by consent of neighbours at some distance. Such cases form roughly 6% of all cottages.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The disposal plant for modern treatment of Ongar Sewerage is in working order at Stanford Rivers and recent tests have shown sufficient working purification.

These works receive sewerage from Chipping Ongar, Shelley, High Ongar, and a large part of Stanford Rivers with facilities for drainage of Stondon Massey and Helvedon Hatch by further extensions.

The Abridge Sewage Outfall Works continue to provide satisfactory purification.

At Moreton the sewage is treated by continuous filtration through clinker beds, and is quite often satisfactory, though this village should be connected to Ongar Sewer.

At Blackmore the old contact beds are still in existance. There is no doubt that new works are required here and the matter has been referred to the Engineer, who has prepared a scheme which is now before the Council. Renewed complaints made this matter one of urgency.

#### CLOSET ACCOMODATIONS.

The general policy where there are no sewers is to provide houses with pail closets and to convert existing privies to pail closets.

Approximate number of	privies with open middens...	...	0.		
"	"	"	" closed " ...	...	0.
"	"	"	pail closets ...	...	3000.
"	"	"	water closets...	...	1235.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

A large number of inspections are made jointly with the Sanitary Inspector, whose report is appended.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.





### SCHOOLS.

These have been visited and found in good sanitary order.

### RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the area for manufacture of rag flock.

### HOUSING STATISTICS for 1944.

#### Number of new houses erected during 1944.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) By the Local Authority ... ..                            | 6.  |
| (2) By other bodies or persons (Temporarily Licensed) ... .. | 12. |

#### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... ..   | 260. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 315. |
| (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-Head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925) ... .. | 0.   |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 0.   |
| (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. ...                             | 0.   |

#### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers ... ..	0.
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#### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

##### A - Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | 0.  |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered after service of formal notices:          |     |
| (a) By owners ... ..   | 10. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..   | 0.  |

##### B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 0. |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:                 |    |
| (a) By Owners ... ..   | 0. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..   | 0. |

##### C - Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition orders were made ... | 0. |
|--|----|



(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0.
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D -- Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	0.
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	0.
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4. HOUSING ACT, 1935, OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	80.
(2) Number of families dwelling therein...	100.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	500.

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. ...	0.
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(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	
(1) during the year... ..	0.
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases,	0.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

A general supervision is exercised over Dairies and Cowsheds as to cleanliness and construction. Milk for sale is also tested for cleanliness. Many samples have been taken during the year.

A good deal of attention has been given to the water supply of dairies, which in some instances have been made satisfactory.

The Essex County Council have taken samples of Milk for biological examination for tubercle from 85 farms in the district. 1 of these gave a positive result. 10 results were inconclusive.

68 samples examined for bacterial tests in connection with supply to children in schools.

Meat.

Inspections made daily as routine work.

Surrenders of unsound meat during 1944	0.
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Shops are supervised as to cleanliness generally.

No public slaughterhouse exists.

Number of public slaughterhouses in use -  
31st December, 1944

Registered... ..	6.
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Licensed ... ..	9.
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Also 1 Knackers Yard.



### Bakehouses.

These have all been inspected and found to be in satisfactory state.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This year has been characterised by average incidence of infectious disease. The Schick test has been used and immunisation carried out on children coming to the Ongar Childrens Home, and the West Ham School, Fyfield, Diphtheria Immunisation is provided free to children generally and about 75% have been immunised with gratifying results, in the almost total abolition of the disease.

Pathological and Bacteriologocal specimens are sent to the E.M.S. Hospital, Epping. Examinations are paid for by the County Council.

Cases of infectious diseases are investigated personally by the M.O.H. or jointly with the S.I.

Scarlet Fever cases are now increasingly allowed to be nursed at home instead of being removed to Hospital.

An epidemic of Influenza occurs every winter and is usually mild in type.

No provision is made for the cleansing of verminous persons, the want is felt occasionally, especially for persons affected by scabies; bad cases of this disease are sent to St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1944.

Disease.	Number Notified.	Sent to Hosp.	Deaths.
Small Pox	0.	0.	0.
Scarlet Fever	16.	8.	0.
Diphtheria	0.	0.	0.
Enteric Fever	0.	0.	0.
Puerperal Fever	0.	0.	0.
" Pyrexia	0.	0.	0.
Pneumonia	0.	6.	10.
Erysipelas	0.	0.	0.
Measles	61.	0.	0.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925. No action.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62. No action.

Tuberculosis Schemes. Essex County Scheme in operation.

Veneral Disease. Patients are sent to Chelmsford and London Hospital.





MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council and resides in Ongar.

Six District Nurse. Mid-wives reside in the district, and others from outside practice in the area.

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Abridge and at Ongar.

Puerperal Fever is rare.	No death in 1944.
" Pyrexia	No cases " "
Ophthalmia Neomatorum.	No cases notified in 1944.
Measles.	No deaths from this disease, 1944.
Polionmyelitis	No cases in 1944.

A.S. DAVID.

Medical Officer of Health.

